



2015

MEMPHIS MAYOR'S CIVIL RIGHTS ESSAY COMPETITION

Sponsored by Mayor A C Wharton, Jr.

TOPIC:

What I learned about community organizing after watching the movie SELMA and what we can do today to advance civil and human rights

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Students enrolled in the 7th – 10th grade at an accredited high school or accredited home school program in the City of Memphis

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

The deadline for submission is 11:59 p.m. on February 12, 2015.
All essays must be received by the City of Memphis at or before this time.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ESSAY:

BY EMAIL

Send essay as a
Microsoft Word attachment
to mayorsoffice@memphistn.gov

BY MAIL

Mail to
Mayor's Civil Rights Essay Competition
C/o Office of Mayor A C Wharton, Jr.
125 N. Main Street, Suite #700
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
(Must be postmarked on or before February
11)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:

February 26, 2015

THE ESSAY

The topic for the 2015 City of Memphis Mayor's Civil Rights Essay Competition is the following:

- **What I learned about community organizing after watching the movie SELMA and what we can do today to advance civil and human rights**

Essays will be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity & originality
 - Persuasiveness
 - Grammar and spelling
 - Understanding of subject matter
 - Relevancy of response to topic question
- Essays must be 750 – 1,000 words.
 - Footnotes, citations, endnotes, and essay titles will not be counted as part of the 750 – 1,000 words allotted to the applicant.
 - Applicants will be penalized for use of improper grammar and/or spelling.
 - Applicants are not permitted to include any forms of media (e.g. photos, diagrams) other than plain text in their essays
 - Essays must be double spaced and typed in 12 point font
 - Applicants may opt to cite external references in their essays such as statistics or quotes. All external references must be properly cited as parenthetical citations, footnotes, or endnotes.
 - Essays must be the original work of the applicant. Essays must neither have been entered in another competition nor have been published previously in any form or sold for publication. Essays must not contain material that infringes on the intellectual property rights of others. Any essay that violates these rules will be disqualified, and any awards made for such essay will be rescinded and must be returned to the City of Memphis. All essays will be checked for plagiarism.

THE AWARDS

- The winning essays will be selected by a committee of judges selected by Mayor Wharton.
- A first (1st), second (2nd), and third (3rd) place winner will be selected
 - The grand prize winner (1st place) will receive a \$500 scholarship. The second place winner will receive a \$300 scholarship and the third place winner will receive \$200. The first, second, and third place winners will also receive certificates from the Mayor A C Wharton, Jr.

- All winners will be invited to attend an awards ceremony in April 2015.
- The winning essay will be published on the City of Memphis website.
- Winners will be publically announced on or before February 26th

WHO MAY ENTER

- The applicant must be a student enrolled in the 7th – 10th grade at an accredited high school or accredited home school program in the City of Memphis.
- Immediate family members of judging committee members or City officials are ineligible for this essay competition.
- Each applicant may enter only once and may only provide one essay on the topic.

SUBMITTING AN ESSAY

- Applicant must submit his or her essay to the Mayor's Office by 11:59 p.m. on February 12, 2015. Those submitted after that time will not be considered.
- A teacher, parent, or guardian may submit an essay on behalf of an applicant (i.e. a student writes the piece and it is submitted by a teacher, parent, or guardian).

Submission by Email

- Title of the submission email should read **MAYOR'S ESSAY COMPETITION**
- The essay should be a Microsoft Word attachment in the email.
 - Document should be double-spaced with 12-point font size.
- The email (the body of the email) should include the following information:
 - **STUDENT'S FULL NAME**
 - **SCHOOL NAME, GRADE**
 - **STUDENT'S HOME ADDRESS, ZIP CODE**
- If the essay is submitted by someone other than the applicant or the writer, this point should be outlined in the email with a description of the person submitting the essay (e.g. "SUBMITTED BY: Mr. John Henderson, Geometry teacher for William Griffin").

Submission by U. S. Mail

You may mail your essays to the following address:

Mayor's Essay Competition
C/o Office of Mayor A C Wharton, Jr.
125 N Main, Suite #700
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

- Essays submitted by fax or any means other than the U. S. Postal Service or email will not qualify and will not be considered.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

- All submitted essays become the exclusive intellectual property of the City of Memphis, and the City of Memphis obtains all rights to use and republish all or any part of such essays upon submission to our website.
- City of Memphis may use prize winners' names, likeness, and other identifying information (such as hometown, school, or grade) in promotional materials relating to this essay competition.
- Winners (or their parents or guardians) will be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility, originality, and compliance with the official rules, a liability release, and a publicity release as a condition to receiving recognition and prize.
- By submitting an essay to the City of Memphis, the applicant agrees to all of the terms and conditions set forth in these Official Rules

MISCELLANEOUS

- Applicant acknowledges that the City of Memphis shall have no liability of any kind as a result of any errors or omissions in the administration of this essay competition, or any network or website errors or incompatibilities, and by entering this competition applicant releases any and all claims applicant may have against the City of Memphis in this regard.
- No essays or applications will be returned to applicants.
- No notice will be given to applicants with non-winning or non-conforming essays or applications.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact
bobby.white@memphistn.gov.

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